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Literary Record.

THE WORKS OF CHARLES LAMB. (In Four Vols.) Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co., Boston.

WE but too often notice books as a duty, not as a pleasure. In some cases, however, both are happily combined. The works of Charles Lamb afford us quite as much gratification in the notice as the reading of them. All his writings show clearly the beautiful and gentle spirit in which they were conceived and written out. Well do we recollect—after completing an orthodox course of reading in our younger days, being the long line of English poets and essayists that one has to read in order to be perfect—of our first encounter with Lamb. We kicked the fixed stars and orderly planets of our literary firmament into an imaginary limbo, and clung to the tail of that comet. And, did we not "see sights!" We found illuminated corners of the mental universe that we never dreamt of—odd feelings brought into the rank and file of common experience, strange tastes and fancies made acceptable by learning, objectionable antipathies justified by simplicity and "infinite humor," poverty exalted by wit and kindliness above every delight and gratification that fall to the lot of the "darlings of fortune." And when Lamb's letters appeared, did we not get them and ponder over the strange affecting problem of his life. What suffering, what patience! what pride-dissolving facts arrested our thoughts, bringing us back from the poetic empyrean to the sober realities from which arose the heavenly incense of his cup of sorrow. Whoever has not read Lamb through and through, has not done something toward completing his education—we do not mean the hollow, external standard of our parrot schools and colleges, but that finer, inner culture, which absorbs the life-giving moisture of such literature, as wild flowers in the midst of rank grass imbibe the dew condensed by the cold of night.

We should not be doing justice to the publishers of this beautiful edition of Lamb's works, did we not express our admiration of the style in which it is got up. The paper, type, and printing are admirable, forming one of the finest examples of the fine taste of the Boston publishers. We hope that Messrs. Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co. will find it a compensating effort.

THE HOUSEHOLD OF BOUVERIE. (A Novel, in 2 vols.) By a Southern Lady. Derby & Jackson.

Bouverie is a remarkable novel. Remarkable for the great ingenuity displayed in the construction of a deep and original plot. Remarkable for terseness of style, for deep thought, fine descriptive powers, and trenchant logic. Remarkable for the deep and thrilling interest of the story. Remarkable for the inventive talent displayed by the author, who has created characters of an uncommon kind, and, what is rare with our novelists, made them move and speak with so much fidelity to nature, that the reader forgets that they are only fictions. We like Bouverie because it is an uncommon novel,—because its characters are cleverly individualized, and all those hidden mysteries of the human heart brought to the surface and exposed to view with a master hand. We like Bouverie, because, like an ingenious piece of machinery, all its parts evolve smoothly and naturally, showing great skill in the workman who constructed it. We regard Bouverie as a striking proof of the high standard of literary talent this country possesses at the present time. It is

an evidence also that this talent only needs proper encouragement to take high place in the world of letters.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES. By Samuel Smiles, author of "Self Help," and "Life of George Stephenson." Ticknor & Fields, Boston.

A very entertaining series of brief biographies of eminent men, whose names are as familiar as household words to Americans. Steel portraits of James Watts, Doctor Arnold, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Leigh Hunt, Robert Browning, and Gerrald Massey, embellish the volume, which is got up with that good taste so characteristic of the publishers. Prominent among the biographies, and which will be found most interesting to the reader, are those of James Watts, Hugh Miller, Richard Cobden, Bulwer (the novelist), Lord John Russell, Disraeli, Gladstone, Hawthorne, Carlyle, Theodore Hook, Edgar A. Poe, and Coleridge.

THE GENTLEMAN'S BOOK OF ETIQUETTE: and Manual of Politeness. By Cecil B. Hartley. G. G. Evans, Publisher, Philadelphia.

If this book had only appeared before we gave that ball in honor of the Prince, what an assistance it would have been to us in shaping our manners. Taking Cecil B. Hartley for our guide, we should (no thanks to Mr. Field and Genio C. Scott), have known exactly what to wear, and how to wear it, which foot to put forward, and what to do with our hands when we advanced to make our bow to the Prince; how even to hold our spoon when we took supper. Nothing is omitted. We are intelligently instructed how to keep our politeness up while we run the gauntlet of the street, the table, the ball-room, the evening party, and during the morning call. The handsome men of the fashionable world will find this an invaluable companion. It would also be a good book to put into the hands of our aldermen, whose manners might be very much improved by an attentive persusal of it. We merely throw out this hint from a knowledge that books of etiquette are not in their line.

A companion to the above is the "Ladies' Book of Etiquette and Fashion," by Florence Hartley, and published by the same house. It aims to instruct ladies in all the great and varied details of etiquette. We should despair of any young lady who, having read this volume attentively, was not sufficiently polished to enter the very best society. Whatever may be thought of such books as these by the man of grave thought, they are, when intelligently written, very useful to the young.

THE OLD FARM HOUSE. By Mrs. C. H. Butler Laing. G. G. Evans, Philadelphia.

The picture of the old farm house, and its homely occupants, is well enough drawn; but the title by no means conveys the true character of the book. The "Old Farm House" is a domestic story, the interest of which turns on the sufferings of a young and beautiful girl, whose ambitious and heartless mother compels her to marry a man who turns out to be a very wretch in human form. The scenes are chiefly laid in New England, and a well-known asylum for the insane, under charge of the good Doctor Woodville, comes in for a share of the author's descriptive powers. The moral of the book is good; but as a literary effort, it hardly rises to mediocrity. To be truthful, both the story and the plot have seen too much service in the hands of writers fresh from boarding school.

ITALY IN TRANSITION. By William Arthur, A.M. Harper & Brothers, New York.

We cannot conscientiously say much for the literary execution of this volume. But it is valuable as giving a clear insight

into the political life of Italy, and may serve as a text-book for writers on the daily press. The author, we must do him the justice to say, is an intelligent observer, and describes the state of political affairs in Italy, in the spring of the present year, well and forcibly. He also discovers an extensive knowledge of the difficulties which led to the present revolution. The most valuable portion of the volume, however, is to be found in the documentary evidence it contains against the oppressors of Italy; and which he has weaved into a narrative of considerable interest. Another portion of the volume is devoted to the government of Rome, during the ten years of its restoration. This, also, is supported by official documents. The book is a useful study for politicians and political economists.

ROSA, OR THE PARISIAN GIRL. By Mrs. J. C. Fletcher. Harper & Brothers, New York.

This is a translation from the French of Madame De Pressense and is addressed to the tastes of the young. The story is pleasantly told, and we have not for a long time chanced upon so suitable a companion to place into the hands of children.

THE LOST HUNTER. By J. T. Adams. M. Doolady, New York.

Whoever reads Mr. Adams' preface will be sure to read his book. He has true poetic genius, a fine sense of humor, a delicate fancy, and rare descriptive powers, which he uses to good advantage in the delineation of character. He views life from the bright side, and his pictures of society, as it was at the date he describes, are drawn with exquisite skill and truthfulness. In reading "The Lost Hunter" the wish to cultivate a nearer acquaintance with the author increases. His style, free and flowing, discovers the gentleman of cultivated tastes, the scholar, and the genial companion, whose thoughts and feelings are in love with nature in her brightest aspect. The story of the Lost Hunter is but a thread, upon which the author has ingeniously hung a good deal of sentiment and love-making. We cannot help thinking that the title was ill chosen, as at first glance many would be disposed to set it down for one of those crude and spasmodic attempts of western writers to imitate Cooper. Under almost any other name, it would have been received for what it really is—a society novel. So chaste a writer as Mr. Adams cannot fail to make his mark in the literary world.

WHEAT AND TARES. (A Novel). Harper & Brothers, New York.

We are a loss to know why the author's name was withheld from so clever a book, so fresh, so full of real life, and so ably written. A story of English life, its characters are just such as one meets floating on the surface of London society. We commend this book to our readers, as one in which they will find much entertainment and instruction.

LIFE AND LETTERS OF EMILY C. JUDSON. By Professor A. C. Kendrick. Sheldon & Company, New York.

Professor Kendrick has here performed a labor of love in the most satisfactory manner. The very name of Fanny Forrester carries with it an endearing influence to the heart of every true Christian. Hers was a spirit that seemed to walk in a holy path, to shed light and love upon places where darkness had held its empire, and to prove how infinite was the wisdom of Him who presides over the troubled affairs of man. A book so full of all that is truly good should find its way to the fireside of every devout Christian. He who takes the truth contained in these letters for his guide through life will not fall by the wayside.

LIFE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. By Edward Everett. Sheldon & Company, New York.

This brief but reliable history of Washington's eventful and glorious career was written by Mr. Everett for the "Encyclopædia Britannica," in which work it first appeared. It comprises all the chief events in the life of the great man, and is written in Mr. Everett's plain and unpretending style. Those who could not afford the more costly volumes of Sparks, Irving, and Marshall, will find in this work all that the ordinary reader wants to know of Washington, and brought within the means of the humblest. The paper, printing and binding is of superior quality; and the price of the book is put at the low price of one dollar.

THE COTTAGES OF THE ALPS: or Life and Manners in Switzerland. By the Author of "Peasant Life in Germany." Charles Scribner, New York.

Readers of "Peasant Life in Germany" will not need to be told that this is a book every way worthy of their perusal. Its aim is to give our people a more minute description of social and political life in Switzerland. And the clever writer has performed the task with all that exactness of description and delicacy of feeling which only a woman can bestow upon such a subject. The only qualifying remark we have to add is, that her reflections seem to have proceeded from a fiercely patriotic observation, one brought up in the midst of the unyielding materially-protected idealism of New England, which rendered her unable to see, as we would say, judiciously. The book comes to us at an opportune moment, for who among us that is not at this moment interested in the stirring events of Northern Europe, and the people who may yet have to play an important part in them? In doing our part to bring such a book before the public, we cannot discharge the duty better than by inserting a passage from the author's preface. "We are influenced," she says, "by the 'Spirit of truth,' and have no cause of malice or unkindness toward the country we have left, or the one in which we are.

"We could transcribe many letters, written voluntarily by German friends, assuring us that our representations have not even the fault of exaggeration.

"But we have since heard that many things are not German, but *continental*. In Switzerland we have relied wholly upon the people, and their own chronicles. The Swiss are all *chroniclers*, are remarkably faithful in writing of themselves. We have found them remarkably ready to open their stores for our researches, and never manifesting any fear of our pen."

Again she says, in speaking of Switzerland: "Here the mountains are the castles, and nature constructs all the palaces. In the city there is nothing princely, and nothing feudal except the ruins. We shall therefore indulge ourselves in saying whatever we think is new and interesting, whether of high or low."

IZAÏAK WALTON'S LIVES: With some account of the Author and his Writings. By Thomas Zouch, D.D., F.L.S. Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co., Boston.

Another classic, and published in equally beautiful style. Any commendation of this work would be superfluous; "Old Izaak Walton" is as familiar to every lover of nature as streams are to every angler. The Lives, like the Complete Angler, are, to fishers of thought, delightful sources of entertainment: people who resort to these volumes will find better luck than we ever found fishing for trout, deluded by the poetry of the "gentle science" of angling.